

# CRYPTOSPORIDIOSIS

Cryptosporidiosis is an illness caused by the coccidian protozoa *Cryptosporidium parvum* characterized by diarrhea, abdominal cramps, anorexia, low-grade fever, nausea and vomiting. Infected persons may be asymptomatic. The disease can be prolonged and life-threatening in severely immunocompromised persons. Transmission is fecal-oral and includes person to person, animal to person, waterborne, and foodborne transmission. *Cryptosporidia* parasites occur worldwide affecting humans, cattle, poultry, reptiles and many other vertebrate species.

## Laboratory Criteria for Confirmation:

- Demonstration of *Cryptosporidium* oocysts in stool, **OR**
- Demonstration of *Cryptosporidium* in small bowel biopsy or other clinical specimens, **OR**
- Demonstration of *Cryptosporidium* antigen in stool by a specific immunodiagnostic test such as enzyme-linked immunosorbent assays (ELISA).

<b>Incidence in Kentucky</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>1999</b>
Number of Cases	10	7
Rate per 100,000	0.2	0.2
Rate by Gender		
Female	0.2	0.2
Male	0.3	0.2

In **1998**, the ages of reported cases ranged from 1 week to 70 years of age with 5 cases being less than 13 years of age. They were reported from 5 different districts.

In **1999**, the ages of reported cases ranged from 1 year of age to 28 years of age, with 6 cases being less than 15 years of age, 3 cases were 4 and younger. They were reported from 5 different districts.